

WIPP Quick Facts (As of 12-18-06)

5,347
Shipments received since opening

44,687
Cubic meters of waste disposed

85,530
Containers disposed in the underground

In memoriam: Kathy Sisneros

The WIPP family offers its condolences to the family and friends of Kathy Sisneros, who passed away on December 3.

Kathy's career touched many peoples' lives. She has led stakeholder outreach efforts in WIPP's Santa Fe office since its opening.

Her caring and generosity will be greatly missed.

WIPP reaches another milestone

WIPP has once again surpassed the record for shipments received in a single week. Between December 3-9, WIPP received 35 shipments.

The previous record of 33 shipments was first achieved in February and repeated in September.

DOE operational readiness review completed



The DOE ORR team poses by RH-72B casks.

The start of remote-handled (RH) TRU waste operations at WIPP got a boost last week with a positive recommendation from a 12-person DOE operational readiness review (ORR) team. The DOE ORR, led by Ed Ziemianski of DOE Idaho, began on December 4 and concluded on December 13 with the issuance of a report recommending authorization to begin RH waste operations at WIPP with only a minimal number of pre-start findings.

"Getting on with the RH mission is key to WIPP's ability to achieve the TRU waste disposal milestone," said WTS General Manager Dick Raaz.

The DOE ORR was the final step in a lengthy process to evaluate whether the WIPP facility is ready to begin RH operations. As part of its review, the DOE ORR team witnessed numerous demonstrations, including:

- ⌘ Waste handling operations with RH-72B shipping cask
- ⌘ Waste handling operations with 10-160B shipping cask
- ⌘ Placement, alignment and leveling of RH emplacement equipment in the underground
- ⌘ Emplacement of a simulated RH TRU waste canister and shield plug in a borehole
- ⌘ A maintenance evolution that included protection against hazardous energy
- ⌘ An emergency exercise designed to result in the declaration of a site area emergency
- ⌘ Various activities performed by support groups such as radiological protection, fire protection and industrial safety

The team also recognized numerous noteworthy practices that highlighted the high degree of training and skill shown by WIPP employees involved in the demonstrations. For example, the report found the operating team to be very skilled and states that team members performed with an outstanding awareness of safety issues, hazards associated with their operation and potential hazards.

What's next?

First, all of the pre-start findings will be reviewed and addressed. Pre-start items are identified changes or corrections that must be made prior to receiving the first shipment of RH TRU waste. CBFO will verify when these items have been completed. The remaining steps will be the approval of audit reports at generator

Dale Hood achieves certification

Dale Hood (WTS) has attained Quality Auditor Certification.

To achieve this recognition, Hood successfully passed a challenging American Society for Quality examination. In doing so, he has reached a significant level of professional recognition and demonstrated a proficiency in and a comprehension of quality auditing tools and techniques.

Congratulations to Dale on this accomplishment!

Transportation Security Administration offers holiday travel tips



Passengers can greatly affect their experience at the airport by preparing in advance. This includes packing liquids, gels and aerosols in checked baggage whenever possible, using 3-1-1 for carry-ons, arriving early and ensuring they are not traveling with prohibited items.

For individuals who must carry liquids, gels and aerosols through the security checkpoint, it's as easy as 3-1-1.

- ⌘ All liquids, gels and aerosols must be placed in a 3-ounce or smaller container.
 - ⌘ These containers must be placed in a 1-quart, clear, plastic, zip-top bag.
 - ⌘ Place 1 bag per passenger in a plastic bin for screening.
-

sites by both the Environmental Protection Agency and the New Mexico Environment Department.

If that regulatory approval is obtained, the first shipment of RH TRU waste is expected to originate from the Idaho National Laboratory in early 2007.

Biggie-sized module clears underground drifts

How do you move a 10' X 9' X 15' box underground and through bulkhead doors? Very carefully, says Dave Sjomeling, WTS mine engineer and EXO project manager. In preparation for next year's delivery of experimental clean rooms from Stanford University, WIPP crews last month transported a scale-sized module from the surface RH Bay to the North Experimental Area (NExA) in the mine.



The oversized module arriving at the North Experimental Area in the WIPP underground.

To appreciate the complexity of the move, Sjomeling said the module fit onto the waste conveyance (hoist) with less than an inch clearance on either side. Underground, he said, the 42-ton forklift and module eased past bulkhead doors with three overhead inches to spare.

"The demonstration was devised to verify that large modules could be maneuvered through the WIPP complex," says Sjomeling. "The model was designed to the exact dimensions of the Enriched Xenon Observatory (EXO) experiment modules, which are very near our outer limits of handling."

Sjomeling credits the RH group for safely moving the module and a successful demonstration. "They did an exceptional job of physically lifting and maneuvering the module from the RH Bay all the way to NExA." The demonstration provided valuable experience for moving the real modules. A second demonstration is scheduled for early next year, when crews will transport modules of similar weight to the EXO modules, the largest of which is 30 tons.

CBFO Chief Scientist Roger Nelson praised both Sjomeling and Jack Thompson, WTS RH engineer, for coordinating the demonstration. "Both of them deserve a lot of credit and congratulations for demonstrating that the EXO modules can be safely and efficiently handled. The tight fit made it just that much more impressive."

Eventually six modules will be shipped to WIPP and installed in NExA as clean rooms. EXO's goal is to detect and study neutrino-less double beta decay, an extraordinarily rare nuclear process that occurs when disintegration of a nucleus is accompanied by emission of two electrons without any associated anti-neutrinos.

Normal beta decay involves a nucleus that emits an electron and antineutrino simultaneously. If detected, the rate of double beta decay can be used to measure the mass of the electron antineutrino. The finding could revolutionize current concepts about physics and cosmology.

Stanford physicist, Dr. Giorgio Gratta, has guided the project from its inception, and observed last month's EXO module demonstration.

DOE has made WIPP's unique underground repository available to the scientific community for research, on condition that the experiments do not interfere with WIPP's mission. The NExA is located far from the disposal area of the mine and does not impact normal operations.

Expressing appreciation to our troops



Thousands of men and women serving in the armed forces will be receiving some extra cheer during this upcoming holiday season, thanks to millions of people across the U.S. who have participated in Xerox's "Let's Say Thanks" postcard program.

"Let's Say Thanks" - a free Web site launched June 26 at www.LetsSayThanks.com - helps people express their gratitude to troops serving overseas through a personalized postcard. People can choose a postcard designed by children from across the U.S., choose a message or write their own, and Xerox takes care of the rest.

The card is printed on Xerox equipment and shipped to nonprofit organization Give2theTroops.org, which then includes the cards in care packages it sends overseas.

Checking his list ...



Hoping to be on the "good" list, Logan and Riley Antiporda, ages 5 and 3, make a last-minute pitch to Santa for their Christmas wishes. The boys are the children of Mike Antiporda (WTS).



Santa always enjoys spending time with the little ones, like Karen Gonzalez, granddaughter of Rudy Castillo (WTS).

A Note from Santa

Please pass along my wish for happiness and health during the Holiday Season to the entire WIPP family. As always, my visit to the WIPP children's party is very special! Some very familiar "elves" greeted me and that elf team put some special care into assuring that the children enjoyed their morning with snacks and a movie. I might ask the team to share some of their teamwork processes with my staff at the Pole since we also work on continuous improvement.

Again, as always, all of the children assured me that they have been "good" and I assured them that I really do check my list not once, but twice. This year's lists seemed to focus on baby dolls, five-story Barbie townhouses, kittens, and laptops for the girls. Boys were leaning toward guitars, skateboards, skateboard wheels, bikes, bats, gloves, balls One of the

**Happy Birthday
Wishes!**

Mark Dziamski (WTS)
December 2

Kevin McTaggart (LANL)
December 3

Lynn Eaton (WTS)
December 5

Ron Galbraith (WRES)
December 5

Luann Underwood (WTS)
December 5

Regina Garcia (CTAC)
December 7

Robbie Morrison (WTS)
December 9

Allison Pangle (CTAC)
December 10

Adela Cantu (WTS)
December 19

Karen Richardson (LANL)
December 19

Lena Dominguez (WTS)
December 20

Dave Moody (CBFO)
December 21

Bob Kehrman (WRES)
December 29

Is your birthday on our list?

Employee birthdays are submitted once and must be re-approved for publication by you every year. Please submit birth dates to the TRU TeamWorks staff at: TRUTeamWorks@wipp.ws.



Josiah Carrasco, age 4, son of Fabian Carrasco (L&M), was a very good boy this year.



The look on Victoria "Tori" Rodriguez's face says it all! Tori, age 3, is the daughter of Doris Rodriguez (L&M).

guys, Sam, asked for a BB Gun, BBs and a scabbard for his horse. I seem to remember a movie about a boy named Ralph and a "Red Rider" gun [".....you'll put your eye out kid..."]. Sam promised he'd learn how to use it safely. Both boys and girls thought that the WII was pretty cool but maybe hard to get – who knows?

Since last year's "baby boom", the tiny ones have grown some and it seems this old elf will have to do some working out to prep for next year. It's a real treat from year to year to watch the children grow from babes-in-arms to big boys and girls. Each one finds a very special place in my heart. As they grow, so grows my heart.

Mrs. Claus and I wish you all a joyous and safe holiday season.

SC

He sees you when you are sleeping, he knows when you're awake ...

Theft or misuse of government property hurts everyone

WIPP employees are aware of the consequences of misusing government property. Theft, illegal possession, unlawful disposition or appropriation, and misuse of government property are federal criminal offenses. Individuals committing these illegal acts are subject to criminal prosecution by the U. S. Attorney General or the District Attorney and the consequences may be severe.

Under federal law, the theft or misuse of government property with a value of less than \$1,000 dollars can result in a fine and/or imprisonment up to one year. If the government property has a value greater than \$1,000 the individual can be fined and/or imprisoned up to ten years. Some offenses may result in felony convictions, which can affect your right to vote, adopt children, own a gun, be employed in certain professions and travel to other countries.

In addition to the penalties discussed above, there are other serious consequences for stealing or misusing government property. The WTS Employee Handbook states that willful damage to, misappropriation of, or misuse of government property is inexcusable and may result in immediate termination.

The individual taking or misusing government property may think he/she is not hurting anyone, but it affects all of us. We all use government property to do our jobs and if someone damages or takes that property it can impact our ability to complete a given task on schedule or make a contract deliverable.

As government contractors, we are responsible for the proper use, control and physical protection of all government property. Employee responsibilities include:

- ⌘ Having a property pass to transport government property into or from any of the WIPP facilities
- ⌘ Protecting government property from loss, damage or theft
- ⌘ Reporting the theft, destruction, damage or loss to government property to your supervisor and Property Management within 24 hours

- ⌘ Knowing the location and condition of government property assigned to you
- ⌘ Making government property available upon request for inventory or inspection
- ⌘ Properly excessing government property that is no longer needed
- ⌘ Using government property for official government business only. This includes stock items, motor vehicles, tools and equipment
- ⌘ Cooperating with investigations into lost or stolen government property

Remember we all need government property to do our jobs and it is in everyone's best interest to protect and care for this property, just as we protect and care for our own personal property.

Submitted by Larry Madl, WRES

Santa's helpers



Well, they don't look like elves ... but that didn't stop them from giving a warm welcome to visitors at the Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce's Christmas on the Pecos. As part of WTS' Blanket Brigade, Danny Najar, Esther Najar and Jim Walker are among the many volunteers to pass out blankets each night as visitors board the boats. The event runs through the end of December.

Power strips and office safety

With the holiday season upon us, the Electrical Safety Committee feels it is a good time to think about office and home safety. Six years ago, WIPP replaced a large number of power strips due to safety and suspect/counterfeit parts concerns. A re-survey of your power strip would be time well spent. Below is a short checklist to verify the safety of your power strip.



Power Strip Safety Checklist

1. Power strip has a mark or label indicating UL compliance
2. Power strip has a mark or label indicating the name of the manufacturer
3. Power strip has a mark or label indicating the model number
4. Power strip power cord is free from nicks, cuts, or severely twisted insulation

Interested in WIPP?

If you would like to be notified when TRU TeamWorks is updated with the latest information about WIPP, send an e-mail message to TRUTeamWorks@wipp.ws.

5. Power strip power cord is free from gaps exposing cable strands at power strip
6. Power strip power cord is free from gaps exposing cable strands at the wall plug
7. Power strip is free from cracks or breaks in the receptacle face
8. Power strip is free from any other visible physical damage

If you answered YES, to ALL the above questions, no further action is required.

If you answered NO, to any of the above questions, contact your immediate supervisor, or a safety representative to assure that your power strip is not defective, damaged or insufficiently marked/labeled. With concurrence of your supervisor, immediately replace any defective, damaged, or insufficiently marked/labeled unit.

How do I replace an unsatisfactory power strip?

- ⌘ *Contact Warehouse personnel.* Daniel Cunningham, Raul Hernandez, Colleen Navarette and Doris Rodriguez can be contacted by e-mail to obtain a replacement.
- ⌘ *Include a cost account number* obtained from your immediate supervisor to cover the cost of the new power strip.
- ⌘ Warehouse personnel can put a power strip back in the mail to you by the next business day. The WIPP site warehouse typically stocks power strips.
- ⌘ The current cost is \$25.50
- ⌘ Think SAFETY FIRST. Use of defective or poor quality power strips can lead to electrical shock or a fire hazard.

**Submitted by Rodney Fuston (WTS)
Electrical Safety Committee**

A time for giving



Jessica Nores and Nicole Munoz, Business Professionals of America students in WTS Business Management, lend a helping hand for the *Christmas to Remember* program. Many organizations and departments at WIPP participated in the program, which aims to provide toys, clothes and other items to local families in need.

DOE Headquarters issues new directive for excessing computers

DOE-HQ issued a recent directive that affects government computers. It states that "no hard drive or other magnetic computer storage media or device can be sold, donated or transferred to an off-site contractor or other organization for disposal." Therefore, the Help Desk must remove all hard drives before the computer can be excessed. Based on the directive, the process for excessing government computers will also change. The following process is to be used from this point forward:

All computers will be listed on a separate excess form. Do not mix computers with any other equipment, including monitors and printers.

- 1) The custodian completes excess form
- 2) Custodian calls Help Desk to have the hard drive removed
- 3) Help Desk removes the hard drive at the custodian's location
- 4) Help Desk attaches a certification sticker with the following information (or writes the information directly on the unit):
 - ⌘ Note that the hard drive has been removed
 - ⌘ Date the hard drive was removed
 - ⌘ Name of individual who removed the hard drive
 - ⌘ Government property tag number on hard drive with indelible ink (if more than one hard drive was removed, they are to be numbered 1,2,3 and so on)
- 5) Help Desk documents the following information on the excess form:
 - ⌘ Date of hard drive removal
 - ⌘ Name of individual who removed the hard drive
- 6) Help Desk informs custodian the computer has been cleared for excess
- 7) Custodian mails excess form to Property Management for processing

If you have questions or need additional guidance, please contact Jerry Bennett, Lois George or me.

Ann Morissette, Team Leader
Property Management
505 234-7614
505 234-7044 Fax
a.morissette@wipp.ws

